

which was exceedingly gratifying as it sure and certain saved the day for the Company. By the use of an apparatus I designed and constructed for the purpose, the cost of eliminating the troublesome sulphur was $\frac{1}{2}$ ct. per M cu. ft.

I worked for the above Company for a period of five years, at the end of which time I gave up the position to take charge of a certain enterprise in which I had invested considered money. However, I did not forget the gas making business because I considered that there was plenty room for economic improvements in the production of gas. In this respect, while employed in the gas business, I conceived an idea that there is no law against accomplishing a complete gasification of all the combustible constituents of the fuel acted upon in one continuous operation. To this end I have been working, and after spending much time, effort and money, I am glad to announce that I have succeeded in reaching the Utopia of my desire which is evidenced by the very valuable Letters Patents I have been awarded by the U. S. Patent Office; one on a Process for producing gas, and one on Apparatus for producing gas, which are very valuable because of the fact that they cannot be infringed on with impunity.

Respectfully submitter by
John U. McDonald
GAS AND COMBUSTION ENGINEER

We learn from Jean Edna that her grandmother, Edna Ann Stewart, was born in Illinois of Mormon parentage and that her parents were divorced because of polygamy. Strange world! Strange that Robert from Ireland and Edna Ann from Illinois, both of Mormon lineage, should meet and marry at what was in the mid-nineteenth century "far away" Placerville, California. Robert and Edna attended the Presbyterian Church but whether or not they were baptized as members their granddaughter does not know.

Personal contact has also been made with Elizabeth Edna McGahan Creekmore of Pacifica, California, who is the daughter of Lydia Ann McDonald McGahan, who was the sixth child of Robert McDonald and Edna Ann Stewart. In response to a request that she relate her remembrances of her grandparents, she states:

"I do not have words to express what those two people meant to me. I still talk of them as though they were here — there are so many beautiful memories. They were both kind and good and a joy to be with. Grandma was very strict in a very kind way and grandpa was a lot of fun to be with. I learned so much about living from them. I was put in a convent at five years old when my Dad left, and I spent most of my

vacations with my grandparents on their ranch in Livermore, California. I have tried to pattern my life after theirs, there was so much good there."

This brief autobiography of John Urban McDonald, born in 1873, eighth child of Robert and Edna, is here given in full for the interest and light it sheds.

FROM FORGE TO AN OPERA SINGER

Member of Quartet at Orpheum
Was Once Protege of Mrs.
Leland Stanford.

Few of the people at the Orpheum who have seen the singing of "The Great Quartette" know that the big basso of the organization, William McDonald, is the former member of the famous Bostonians, and thus, for years McDonald was one of the high cards of that distinguished aggregation.

McDonald is a Californian, and was in other years a protege of Mrs. Leland Stanford. He was known at Palo Alto as the "blacksmith singer." His trade was that of a blacksmith, and he worked at it near Stanford University.

McDonald is a modest fellow, quiet and almost reserved, but the ovation he received broke the ice, and he talked afterward of his work.

"It was years ago," said McDonald, "that I worked away at the forge down at Palo Alto, and there I got the story that sent me into stage land. I got in touch with Mrs. Stanford. She was so kind to me, and with her usual kindness of heart offered to help me get an education in music. She planned to send me to Europe, and would have done so had not family affairs called me out of the country, breaking up a number of her arrangements.

"Those were golden days down at Palo Alto. I am never happier than when I get back there, after being all around the world with opera companies, and in London."

When William, superintendent of the Orpheum, is in an act of sympathy at McDonald, he has the two choruses a regular fast night, and the two choruses are members of the Orpheum Opera Company, and so on.



WILLIAM McDONALD.

This clipping from a California newspaper published near the turn of the century throws light on the life of William McDonald born in 1862, second son and third child of Robert and Edna, the one known as "the singing blacksmith."